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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-PAK RELATIONS; PAKISTAN

POLITICAL SITUATION; INDIA-PAKISTAN TENSION; U.S.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES ON PAKISTAN BORDER; CAMPAIGN AGAINST

TERRORISM; PAKISTAN OFFENSIVE AGAINST AL-QAEDA; AFGHAN-

PAKISTAN TENSION; AFGHANISTAN: INTERNAL STABILITY; IRAQ;

MIDEAST: PROPOSED CEASEFIRE; EUROPE: TRANSATLANTIC

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RELATIONS

(November 05, 2003)

News:

Opinion:

-- News Stories/U.S.-Pak Relations

1. "U.S. Okays Funds To Waive Pak Debt" "The News" (11/05)

Quote: The U.S. Senate agreed on Tuesday on \$87.5 billion bill for reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, including new funds for Pakistan.... Pakistan hopes to get about \$395 million from the U.S. during fiscal year 2004 (beginning October 1), including \$200 million Economic Support Fund (ESF) for paying down about \$500 million U.S. debt... End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

2. "U.S. Diplomats Meet Maimoona Hashmi; Ask Details about Javed Hashmi's Arrest; Meeting Continued for 45 Minutes," "Nawa-e-Waqt" (11/05)

Quote: Two senior officers of the U.S. Embassy, Richard M. Mills and Richard W. Snelsire, called on Ms. Maimoona Hashmi, daughter of the ARD President Javed Hashmi yesterday at 4:00 p.m. The meeting lasted for 45 minutes, during which they asked details about the situation.... When the American diplomats asked the reason for the non-issuance of an order (by the National Assembly Speaker) that Mr. Hashmi be produced by the government, Maimoona Hashmi replied that the Speaker was avoiding it under government pressure. According to sources, the diplomats expressed concern at the arrest and possible violations of the legal requirements pertaining to (Hashmi's) meeting with his lawyer. They termed it a violation of human rights. End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Tension

3. "New Delhi Interested In Jamali's Offer: Report" "Dawn" (11/05)

Quote: In a policy paper distributed on Tuesday among Washington's policy planners and think-tanks, Pakistan notes with satisfaction that India appears willing to

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hold talks on some of the issues raised earlier by Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali... End quote.

-- U.S. Military Activities on Pakistan Border

4. "U.S. Jets Bomb Paktika; 4 Bombs Land in Pakistani Areas," "Nawa-e-Waqt" (11/05)

Quote: Kabul - U.S. jets bombed Afghan province Paktika yesterday, during which 4 bombs landed in Pakistan's tribal area, North Waziristan. However, no loss of life was reported. End quote.

5. "U.S. Jet Fires At Pakistan Territory" "The Nation" (11/05)

Quote: (PPI) - An American fighter jet fired at Pakistani territory with machinegun fire, but there were no reports of damage or injuries. Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, Director General Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) told journalists the bullets hit 500 to 1,000 meters inside Pakistani territory, and that the incident appeared to be an accident. It was not clear who or what the jet was targeting when it opened fire... End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism: Guantanamo Detainees

6. "Ex-Guantanamo Prisoner Moves Court Against U.S." "The News" (11/05)

Quote: Muhammad Sagheer, 53, a Pakistani freed from the US military camp at Guantanamo has filed a case in a local court seeking \$10.4 million in damages from the United States for his "illegal detention, torture and humiliation."... The U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Secretary of Defense and Justice Department of the U.S. as well as Interior Ministry of Pakistan, have been nominated as respondents... End quote.

-- Pakistan Offensive Against Al-Qaeda

7. "Pak Troops Kill Two Foreign Militants" "The News" (11/05)

Quote: Two foreign nationals, believed to be Uzbeks, were killed in a clash with Pakistani troops in Angoor Adda area of South Waziristan Agency on Monday night, while two of the suspected terrorists managed to escape... End quote.

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-- Afghan-Pakistan Tension

8. "Mullah Omar's Aide Wants Regime Change In Pakistan"
"Daily Times" (11/05)

Quote: A close aide to Taliban leader Mullah Muhammad Omar has said he hopes the Pakistani government will change soon and Islamabad's help to Islamic militias resumes with President Musharraf's exit from power. In an interview with "Daily Times" at an undisclosed location in southern Afghanistan, Maulvi Akhter Muhammad, an economic advisor to Mullah Omar, said President Musharraf and a few other generals "betrayed" the Taliban and they would not stay for long in power... End quote.

Editorials/Opinions: Watch list Items

-- Pakistan Offensive Against Al-Qaeda

9. "Handing Over Foreign Members of Al-Qaeda to04 ISLAMABAD 008285

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Pakistan: Why?" an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (11/05)

Quote: According to a news item, Iran has handed over 59 persons belonging to Al-Qaeda and the Taliban to Pakistan. Out of these, 35 are Pakistanis, while the nationalities of the remaining could not be ascertained. On the other hand, the list Iran has handed over to the UN includes 29 Saudis, 12 Jordanians, 13 Yemenis, 6 Moroccans and 7 Somalis. This shows that the 24 persons whose nationalities could not be ascertained might belong to these countries. It is strange that Pakistan even considered taking in persons who are not Pakistanis. In the first place Iran should have dealt with these people on its own. And if it did not want to hand them over to the U.S., it could have handed them over to the UN. Pakistan must extradite these persons to the countries to which they belong. End quote.

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-- Afghanistan: Internal Stability

10. "Afghanistan: An Islamic Republic," an editorial in the Islamabad rightist English daily, "Pakistan Observer" (11/05)

Quote: A draft constitution was presented to President Hamid Karzai and ex-King Zahir Shah in Kabul on Monday envisaging Afghanistan as an Islamic Republic, presidential form of government and bicameral legislature. The President will have the power to nominate 50 per cent of the Members in the Upper House (House of Elders). The constitution will be approved by the Loya Jirga, which will be held on December 10.... A viable constitution acceptable to all segments of society is urgently needed to restore normalcy in the country so that the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation may be taken in hand... End quote.

11. "Afghan Constitution, Alas!," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (11/05)

Quote: ... It is difficult to imagine how another Taliban-like constitution will be enforced without another civil war.... If the Loya Jirga somehow accepts the present draft there will be no dearth of people in Afghanistan - and in Pakistan too - abominating it as an American imposition. End quote.

-- Iraq: Terrorism and Armed Opposition to CPA

12. "Moving Beyond The U.S. Quagmire," an op-ed by Shireen M. Mazari in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (11/05)

Quote: ... Attacks against U.S. forces continue to become more deadly and the U.S. continues to insist that it is only either Saddam loyalists or "foreign fighters" who are responsible. Somehow, the U.S. is not prepared to accept that perhaps many ordinary Iraqis find the occupation of their country unacceptable. With its own04 ISLAMABAD 008285

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array of the few allies that have sent their limited military contingents to help the U.S., it is also ironic that the U.S. is condemning "foreign fighters" fighting against its forces! After all, the U.S. is itself a foreign invader as are the allies brought in by it.... The tragedy is that the whole international community has become caught up in the crossfire. It is time for the rest of the international community to move beyond the U.S. quagmire. End quote.

-- Middle East: Proposed Ceasefire

13. "Another Middle East Peace Bid," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (11/05)

Quote: Yet another move has been initiated to impose a workable ceasefire in Israel-Palestine territory after the Arab resistance Hamas movement offered to halt attacks on Israeli civilians.... The problem remains the unwillingness of United States as the patron of Israel to keep its protege on a tight leash. This gives grounds to believe that Israeli violence is not without American approval. It is wrong to believe that Israel will dare to go against world opinion without being certain of the protection of United States.... Palestinian Prime Minister Qorei will do well to heed this point. While peace is a much-desired objective, it is also necessary that peace must ensure that the Palestinians are not denied their claim to their traditional land. End quote.

-- Europe: Transatlantic Relations

14. "The Europe Barometer" an editorial "The Nation" (11/05)

Quote: The findings of a EU opinion poll on how Europeans view various countries as hazards to world peace should cost Tel Aviv and its blind supporter, the U.S. administration a few sleepless nights.... It is a wake-up call for Washington that Europeans consider the US a bigger threat to world peace than Syria and Iraq though Washington and its most loyal European ally, Britain have been crying hoarse about their dangerous disposition. Another finding that shows that European thinking is closer to that of the Muslim world is that it considers the U.S.-led war on Iraq unnecessary. However there is no consolation for Pakistan here either. The opinion poll notes that 48 percent

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Europeans consider Pakistan a threat to world peace while only 22 percent feel the same about India. One can conclude from these statistics that Kashmir as a nuclear flashpoint may account for half the apprehensions about Pakistan; the rest is linked to perceptions about our association with terrorism in Afghanistan and reports that Pakistan remains a haven for Al-Qaeda operatives. Food for introspection here. End quote. Powell

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